

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The rebuilding of destroyed cities in the Soviet Union, and probably in the satellite countries, is proceeding at a much greater speed than in Lithuania. For example, reconstruction in Vilnius is on a much smaller scale than in Danzig. Although Vilnius is kept in good order by street cleaning, etc., and the main Gediminas Street has been entirely restored, there is very little building being done. A few public buildings have been erected, and the projects and plans for such buildings are prepared by architects from Moscow and Leningrad. The railroad station at Kaunas was finished in 1952, and the Vilnius railroad station has been expanded and rebuilt. In Kaunas, only a few large dwelling houses have been erected, but there is more building going on in Siauliai. In Klaipeda, few blocks of apartments are being built, perhaps because the reconstruction of the port installations and factories is now in progress.
2. In all towns and large villages, however, with the exception of Vilnius, a number of private houses were built in 1952. Conditions for private building were very favorable. Everyone who belonged to the categories of workers and civil servants could get a free piece of land and a loan of 7,000 to 10,000 rubles for building purposes. The civil servants built practically nothing, because they did not earn enough for their own living. Those people who did build were black marketeers, who always had enough money and had nowhere to invest it except in building houses.
3. The problem of apartments is more acute in Vilnius than in Kaunas or any other towns. Rents are very low in comparison with other prices. The monthly rent for accommodations for one person corresponds to the price of half a kilo of butter, 15 rubles. Living space for one person is nine square meters, and the rent is one and a half rubles per square meter. Electricity is also much cheaper than it was before World War II;

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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one kilowatt costs 0.40 rubles. Water costs one ruble per cubic meter. Because of the low rents, the class of workers who did not flee in 1945 took possession of the very best apartments of those who fled and are still living in them; the Soviets did the same.

4. The block leaders are responsible for registration in apartments, and for making sure that no one is living there without registering. One must be careful to keep on the right side of the block leaders and the former owners of houses, who are often house-watchers as well. The supervision and repair of apartments are very difficult problems, because the rent is only sufficient to pay the costs of administration. The nationalized housing economy does not pay the State, as has been admitted by the city administration itself. Therefore, the projected nationalization of smaller houses has not been completed, and it has been proposed that smaller houses be sold and returned to private ownership.

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